

1888

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS  
NEW YORK  
ADDRESSES

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**in the City of New York**  
**College of Physicians and Surgeons**  
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# INAUGURATION

OF THE NEW BUILDING OF THE

## COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

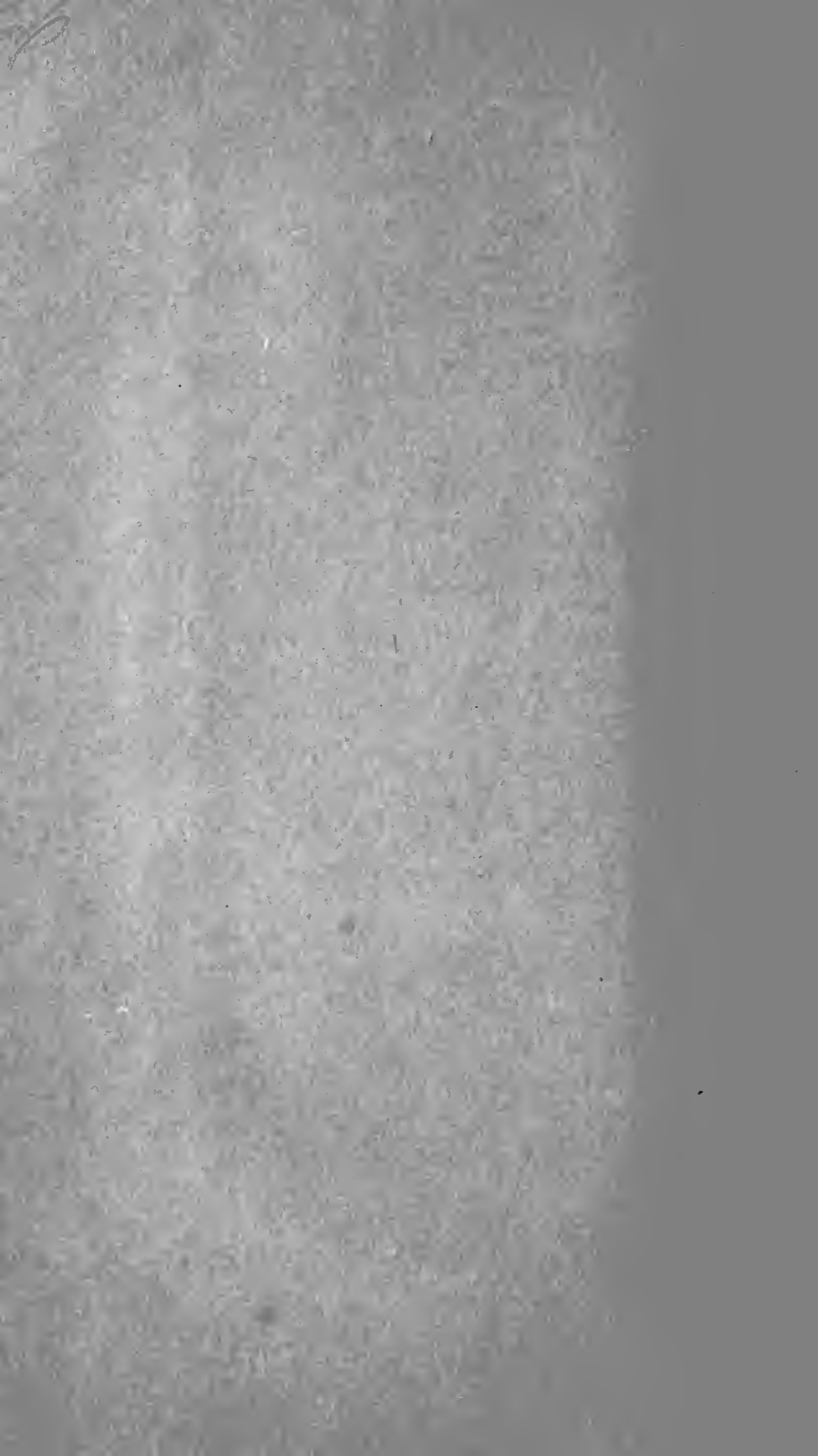
AND OF THE

## SLOANE MATERNITY HOSPITAL

AND THE

## VANDERBILT CLINIC

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS  
437 WEST FIFTY-NINTH STREET  
NEW YORK



# COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK;

Medical Department of Columbia College.

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## *ADDRESSES*

AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE

NEW COLLEGE BUILDING

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 1887;

AND OF THE

SLOANE MATERNITY HOSPITAL

AND THE

VANDERBILT CLINIC

DECEMBER 29TH, 1887.



PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COLLEGE

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The new building of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at 437 West 59th Street, was inaugurated September 29th, 1887.

THE EXERCISES CONSISTED OF

- I. *Prayer*, from the Rev. SULLIVAN H. WESTON, D.D.,  
*Trustee.*
- II. *Historical Sketch of the College*, by J. C. DALTON, M.D.,  
*President.*
- III. *Inaugural Address, with Presentation of Busts and  
Portrait*, by WILLIAM H. DRAPER, M.D., *Trustee.*



# HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE COLLEGE

BY

J. C. DALTON, M.D.

GENTLEMEN, ALUMNI OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
AND SURGEONS; MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,  
AND OF THE FACULTY :

We are assembled today to inaugurate a new epoch in the existence of the College. After being sustained for so many years by the unremitting devotion of its teachers, officers and alumni, it has now received recognition and support from other sources than the medical profession. It has felt the impulse of a generous and enlightened commercial prosperity; and after many varied experiences and changes of location, it is transferred at last to this ample domain and to these new buildings. I am deputed to present, as part of the exercises of the occasion, a brief sketch of the history of the institution. In the discharge of that duty, may I ask your indulgence while I recall some of the main features in the story of its progress and fortunes to the present time?

The College of Physicians and Surgeons had its origin in a spontaneous movement of the profession in the city of New York for the cultivation and improvement of medical science and art. In the year 1807 the Medical Society of the county of New York adopted

a memorial to the Legislature, setting forth the desire of its members to "promote the progress of medical knowledge," and to give "encouragement and protection" to the pursuit of medical science; and expressing the belief that they would be aided in that object if they were incorporated as a college, under the auspices of the State university. They also addressed a petition to the Regents of the university, declaring that "their efforts would be more successful if directed under the patronage of the Regents," and praying the Regents to "favor the views of the said Society."

This action met with a prompt response; and within a month thereafter the members of the Society were duly incorporated as a college, with all the rights and privileges of such an institution.

The Medical Society of the county of New York was then in the second year of its existence; and numbered one hundred and thirty-nine members, embracing all the legally qualified practitioners in the vicinity. Its constituent meeting, July 1, 1806, is called, in the printed report, a "meeting of the Physicians and Surgeons of the City and County of New York." In the address of its presiding officer, on the following day, it is spoken of by the same designation; and when, beside their organization as a Society, its members were also incorporated as a college, the institution so established was entitled the COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS in the city of New York.

The College was therefore, in its primary organization, a creation of the Medical Society of the county

of New York ; and the body of its trustees or members comprised all the members of that society. This forms one of its most honorable claims to distinction. It represented the best endeavors of the profession for the improvement of medical knowledge and education. It embodied their hopes for the immediate needs of the time, and laid the foundation for further progress in the future.

But it seldom happens that an educational institution can be administered by so large a body of managers as the whole membership of the county Medical Society. However sincere their intention, they could not all possess the requisite knowledge, nor command the necessary time for the regulation of its affairs ; and at their first meeting, for the organization of the College, only sixty-three members were present. Other defects in the charter became apparent on trial ; and in the following year the College presented a request for certain changes, which were thought "important to the stability and usefulness of the institution." The charter was consequently amended by an ordinance passed March 3d, 1808.

The changes introduced by this amendment were two-fold. First, the officers of the College, instead of being elected annually by the corporation, were appointed by the Regents, thus giving greater stability to the organization. Secondly, all members of the Medical Society who wished to serve as trustees or members of the College, were required to declare in writing their acceptance of the trust, and that they would, "to the best of their abilities, promote the

usefulness of the said College, and faithfully execute the duties required of them." By this means the institution was relieved of its doubtful or indifferent members, and was entrusted to those who had faith in its destiny and would give it the guaranty of their favor and support.

In the mean time the College had elected its officers, and had been provided with professors and lecturers. A circular, addressed to the different medical societies in the State, informed them that "under the direction and patronage of the Regents, the College of Physicians and Surgeons have established a School of Physic;" and that they have procured, "in a central part of the city," a commodious building, where apartments will be fitted up for the lecturers and students. The arrangements were completed in accordance with this plan, and the first course of lectures was duly opened on Tuesday, November 10th, 1807.

This "central part of the city," where the College was inaugurated, was Robinson street. Few of my hearers will be likely to recognize this location; and in fact its name has long ago disappeared from the city maps. It was a short street running west from Broadway to the grounds then occupied by Columbia College, and formed a portion of what is now Park Place. Even its present designation has long been a misnomer, since the disappearance of the Park from its eastern extremity, and its extension as a street in the opposite direction to the North River. Probably not a single feature of the locality, as it

then was, exists today. But for us it has a certain mysterious interest, as the earliest domicile of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

At that time the population of New York was a little more than one twentieth of what it is now. Most of the city was below Chambers street. The wealthier residences were at the lower end of Broadway, about the Battery and Bowling Green, with the shops in the upper part of the same street. Broadway was paved only to the neighborhood of Canal street, beyond which it continued as a road. Canal street itself existed only on paper, and was represented by a swamp and a sluggish stream, crossed by a bridge at the intersection of Broadway. The New York Hospital was in an open space of several acres on the west side of Broadway, between the present Duane and Worth streets. The water supply of the city was from wells and pumps, usually situated in the middle of the street. The ferries to Brooklyn and the Jersey shore were served by row-boats and small sailing craft. There were neither Croton water works nor gas companies ; and none of the streets were ornamented with telegraph poles or elevated railroads.

But notwithstanding this contrast with the appearance of the city at present, it would be a mistake to suppose that there was anything that could be called primitive in its people or their mode of life. They occupied a smaller area, and lived at the beginning of the century. But in every other respect than space and time, the city in 1807 was the New York of to-

day ; busy, enterprising, luxurious and progressive. There was the same activity, the same liberality of ideas, the same continuous movement of expansion. The population had increased over thirty per cent since 1800 ; and in certain localities the land was said to have tripled in value within twenty years. There were seven or eight daily newspapers, and a medical quarterly, edited by two of the most prominent members of the profession.

Such was the condition of the city and the times when the College of Physicians and Surgeons came into existence. Its first course was attended by fifty three students. The Regents reported that it had commenced its business in a manner "to answer all the expectations entertained in its establishment ;" and they recommended it to the Legislature as an institution "important to the welfare of the people of the State." At the second session its class numbered seventy six ; and at the third eighty two.

But what was the daily course of college business, as then carried on ? Would it not be an interesting experience if we could go with the student of those early sessions, sit with him on the benches at No. 18 Robinson Street, and hear the professors discourse on the topics of the time ? How would a day at the College in 1807 differ from one spent there now, after eighty years have gone by ? The records are rather scanty as to these details ; but they show to some extent what the College undertook to do, and how it was accomplished.

In the first place there was somewhat more formality in the proceedings than we have now. The main business was approached with careful circumspection and due regard for the importance of the subject. The first day was devoted to an introductory address by the president, which is still preserved in the college archives. It was an elaborate and learned discourse, touching on questions of history, ethnology, philology and general education. Then followed the professors in turn, on successive days, each with an introductory in his own department; so that on the whole an entire week was occupied with preliminary medical literature. But once started on their four months' course, the lecturers pursued their work with industry and zeal. It appears from the programme for 1808 that five lectures were given in the College every day. Some of the professors lectured four times a week, and others daily throughout the session. Certainly, neither teachers nor pupils could have had much time to waste.

The Robinson street building was one hired for immediate use, and at the end of the second year the College was removed to Magazine street. This name is also unfamiliar to our ears, and is no longer found on the city map. It extended eastward from a point in Broadway, opposite the grounds of the Hospital. Some years later it was joined with the upper end of Pearl street, and changed its name accordingly. The house occupied by the College was on the south side of the street, near Broadway, and corresponded with the present number 553 Pearl street.

This was the history of the institution for the first few years of its existence. During that time it numbered in its faculty several members of marked character and ability.

Foremost among these was NICHOLAS ROMAYNE, the most active man in the organization of the College and its first president. He obtained its charter from the Regents of the university; he pledged his personal credit to provide it with funds; and he delivered for three years the lectures on the Institutes of Medicine. He was a man of large stature, but easy and graceful motion; of vigorous and cultivated mind, active ambition and persistent energy; and of a disposition always ready to accept the responsibilities of the occasion. If the College of Physicians and Surgeons can be said to have been established by the special exertion and influence of any one man, its founder was undoubtedly Nicholas Romaine.

Equally notable was Dr. SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, vice president of the College, senator of the United States, professor of Chemistry and Natural History; a man of varied accomplishments, versatile talent and wide reputation. According to his biographers, Dr. Mitchill was a kind of human dictionary, who could be consulted on any question of science, history or politics. He could discourse in turn on a Babylonian brick, meteoric stones, the theory of chemical combination, the construction of a windmill, the fishes of North America, or the geology of Niagara Falls. He obtained from Congress the appropriation for the



defences of New York harbor; he aided DeWitt Clinton in his project for the Erie canal, and was the orator of the day at the ceremony of its inauguration; he believed in Robert Fulton's idea of steam navigation, and went on the trial trip of his first steamboat to Albany. Disinterested, patriotic, engaging and communicative, he was an influential character in the creation and development of American science.

The next period of the college history opens in 1814, when the medical faculty of Columbia College became amalgamated with the College of Physicians and Surgeons. It had been thought desirable for some years that both sets of professors should be united in a single body. It was already evident that the College of Physicians and Surgeons had in it the elements of success; and it received a new accession of strength from the consolidation of the two faculties under its sole direction. Nearly fifty years afterward it was formally adopted as the Medical Department of Columbia College.

By this time the College had again changed its location to a more commodious building at Number 3 Barclay street. This was originally a brick storehouse, altered and repaired to serve as a medical college. It was three stories in height, with a terminal balustrade and a cupola, surmounted by a statue of Apollo, to indicate the scientific and medical character of the institution. It was afterward enlarged and remodelled, to provide for the increasing numbers in attendance.

The most prominent man at that time, in the affairs of the College, was DAVID HOSACK. He had been mainly instrumental in bringing into the faculty the former professors of Columbia College. He was in the prime of life and distinguished as a practitioner. His ardent temperament and undoubting self-reliance led him to the front in many controversial discussions ; and his views were always maintained with force and ability. He was especially popular as a teacher. His lecture hour is said to have been awaited by all with eager expectation. His sonorous voice and impressive manner, and the changing expression of his face, gestures and utterance, held the attention of his class, and gave them a dramatic entertainment rather than the didactic monotony of a lecture. He was extensively known beyond the limits of the profession, and was a marked celebrity in the social and literary circles of his day.

But notwithstanding this apparent prosperity, there were already in the College causes of disturbance, which were destined before long to threaten it with disaster. The trouble began with complaints from the Medical Society in regard to the policy and operation of the College. The complaints were met with replies and counter charges. There were committees of investigation, hearings before the Board of Regents, and acrimonious articles in the daily press ; until the dispute had involved, on one side or the other, nearly every medical man in the city and not a few in other parts of the State. At that time the element of per-

sonality entered largely into all discussions of a public nature ; and there is evidence that it had its share in the college controversy. The members of the medical society, not connected with the College, were dissatisfied with its management by the faculty. They declared that this small body of men, whose talents and capacity they freely acknowledged, had formed among themselves a kind of "learned aristocracy," and disregarded too plainly the claims and opinions of the profession ; and that they had repeatedly violated the laws and ordinances of the Regents. The professors maintained that they had always acted for the interest of the College and according to law ; and that the charges against them were only the expression of disappointed rivalry. Some of the opponents of the faculty were then incorporated into the Board of Trustees ; and the divergence of opinion became more irreconcilable than ever. It reached a crisis in 1826 ; when the professors resigned in a body, and organized a rival establishment under the name of the *Rutgers Medical College*. The partisan spirit, created by these events, influenced all the adherents of the two institutions ; and, like Rome and Carthage, each believed that it could live only by the destruction of the other.

But professors who resign from a medical school, in order to see it languish and die when deprived of their superior talents, seldom find the experiment a success. It is apt to turn out that there are others who are able to fill the chairs they have left, and who can still maintain the credit and prosperity of the insti-

tution. That is what happened in the present case. The Regents appointed for the College of Physicians and Surgeons a new corps of professors, whose names are still honored at the present day; and of whom three became afterward presidents of the institution. The rival college had an existence of only four annual sessions.

For the next ten years the College of Physicians and Surgeons was beset with difficulties. It had experienced a revolution which restored its internal harmony, but at dangerous cost of time and means. Its resources were at a low ebb. Its building was in bad condition. It had but a scanty supply of apparatus and material; and it was subject to pecuniary claims, urgently pressed by suits at law, which threatened the compulsory sale of its land and building.

But the new professors were equal to the emergency. They made every effort to restore the efficiency of the College. They husbanded its resources by a judicious economy; and they demonstrated their ability as teachers by persevering attention to the duties of their chairs. By this means the institution was gradually relieved of its embarrassments and freed from the annoyance of professional opposition. Its vitality was tested and strengthened by the trials it endured, and it gained at last the permanent respect of its opponents as well as its friends.

The next event of importance was in 1837, when the College removed to Crosby street, about one mile farther up town. The new building was on the east

side of the street, and was known as Number 67. It was considered greatly superior to the former structure, as, beside being more spacious, it was lighted with gas and supplied with Croton water ; neither of which conveniencies existed in the Barclay street building. It was occupied for nearly twenty years.

The time during which the College remained in Crosby street was one of substantial progress in reputation and prosperity. As compared with the previous ten years, its average attendance of students increased nearly fifty per cent. The traces of antagonism in various quarters, the legacy of its earlier turmoils and dissensions, disappeared before the growing popularity of its teachers and the united support of its officers and trustees. This opened for the College a new prospect, and placed it in a different position. Hitherto its energies had been consumed in an unavoidable conflict with difficulties. Now they were employed to enlarge its resources and increase its usefulness.

This period was marked by two important improvements in the methods of teaching. The first was the adoption and use of *material illustration*. The announcement for 1837 lays especial stress on the facilities for practical anatomy, and on the means of illustration in all departments by specimens, drawings, models, wax preparations and plaster casts. The collection in the anatomical museum was largely increased and was made the property of the College ; and professor John B. Beck contributed his cabinet of *materia medica*, containing nearly six hundred speci-

mens. On all sides a desire was manifested to enlarge the means of instruction beyond those of a strictly didactic course. The circular for 1850 announces the purpose of the faculty to make the instruction "as demonstrative and practical as possible," and declares that in this object they are "warmly sustained by the Trustees of the College."

The second feature of improvement was the *college clinic*, established in 1841 by the sagacity and enterprise of Dr. WILLARD PARKER. Dr. Parker was then recently appointed professor of surgery. He had taken some of his private pupils to the Northern Dispensary, to witness there the methods of diagnosis and treatment. This kind of instruction was found so useful that he determined to transfer it to the College, where all might share in its benefits. Out door patients were accordingly brought, from the Dispensary and elsewhere, to the college building, to be examined and treated in the presence of the class. This was the beginning of the entire system of college clinics, which have since grown into such magnitude. At first they were held once a week, afterward more frequently. A medical clinic and a clinic for women were added to the list. The number of patients multiplied; and in 1850, according to the circular for that year, the clinic had "assumed a degree of importance that could hardly have been anticipated at its origin." There were, after that, three clinics each week throughout the session.

The next move of the College was in 1856, when it

occupied the building so familiar to all of us, at Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue. There it remained for a little over thirty years; and it was during this time that it exhibited, in several respects, the most remarkable signs of expansion and development. Those who can look back to the beginning of that period, and can compare the responsibilities and requirements of the College then and now, will be at no loss to understand why the accommodations and equipment, which were ample thirty years ago, became at last so dwarfed and insufficient.

The first of these changes, which took place in Twenty-third street, was a great increase in the *college clinics*, from the growing importance of medical specialities. Beside an additional surgical clinic, there were successively established a venereal clinic, a clinic for the eye and ear, one for the skin, one for children, one for the nervous system, and one for diseases of the throat; until the regular weekly list included ten separate clinics in the college building. Each of these needed room for the reception and examination of patients, and for the illustrations and apparatus of the clinical professor. The space available for such purposes became occupied to its utmost; and notwithstanding every effort to provide for their necessities, the college clinics grew like a family of children, and filled to distention the hospitable mansion of their birth.

Another set of requirements came with the increased use of *material illustration*. What had al-

ready been done in that way showed the immense superiority of demonstration and experiment, as a means of instruction, over that by mere verbal statements. It demands from the teacher increased expenditure of time, labor and material; but when once tried it can never be abandoned, because it conveys information in the most intelligible form, and fixes it at once upon the understanding and the memory. In the scientific departments it is like the clinic in practical medicine. It will be safe to say that in chemistry, in anatomy and in physiology, the necessities for experimental and demonstrative illustration have become five fold what they were in 1856. They involve not only more time and care on the part of the teacher; they call for greater space, multiplied apparatus and numerous facilities, which were neither needed nor anticipated a quarter of a century ago.

Thirdly the *college course* was extended over a longer time and embraced additional topics. Originally, the lecture term was four months long. In 1841 it was supplemented by Spring and Fall courses, of several weeks each, devoted to special subjects. A few years later it was announced that in the opinion of the faculty the session of four months, required by law, was "too short even for the regular course, and much too short to allow them to enter into specialties." Lectures were accordingly given in the Fall course by all the professors, and the regular term was extended to four months and a half. After the removal to Twenty-third street it was again lengthened



to five months ; and in 1880 it absorbed the whole of the subsidiary courses and was extended to seven months. Moreover the graduating examinations were deferred until after the close of the lectures, bringing the date of Commencement a fortnight later. Thus the time spent in the necessary work of an annual college course was finally not less than seven and a half months, or nearly double its former length.

These are among the important changes which occurred while the College was in its Twenty-third street habitation. They developed so rapidly and to such an extent as to overshadow the more modest growth of earlier years. But they were, nevertheless, its legitimate offshoots ; and in every instance thus far mentioned it is plain that they sprang from innovations and improvements originated in the Crosby street building.

But in one respect a change was accomplished which may fairly be considered a recent growth ; that is the establishment of *laboratories of instruction* under the auspices of the Alumni Association. This scheme embodies the most distinctive feature of modern medical teaching. It is a logical sequence of the admitted superiority of the method by demonstration. If it be better to show a student how a thing is done than to tell him about it, surely it must be better still to make him do it himself. The man who, under proper direction, has separated and examined the constituents of the blood, or prepared for the microscope the wonderful spectacle of the capillary circulation, or

tested the electric reaction of nerve and muscle, has advanced beyond the condition of simple pupilage. He can then appreciate the value of his instruction, and he has gained the capacity for future progress by himself.

These are the objects, and others like them, aimed at by the Physiological and Pathological Laboratory of the Alumni Association. Nine years ago the Association appropriated a fund for the equipment and partial support of a laboratory of instruction, on a plan proposed by the present professor of Pathology and Practical Medicine. He gave to the enterprise his personal care and his financial aid; and in his three-fold capacity, as director and patron of the laboratory, member of the faculty, and member of the alumni association, he was unremitting in his endeavors for its success. During the last few years the laboratory has been carried on at an annual expenditure of rather more than Five Thousand dollars; and the number of students resorting to it has increased from thirty or forty to over a hundred. In 1885 the director announced that its resources in the way of space were exhausted, more students being in attendance than could fairly be accommodated. In the following year additional courses were established for May and June; and it appeared that the number of students attending them was "limited only by the seating capacity of the laboratory." The Laboratory Department, like the college clinics, outgrew its accommodations, and felt the restraint of its narrow quarters in the Twenty-third street building.

This was the condition of the College and its resources, when it received the generous aid of a large-minded benefactor. Mr. William H. Vanderbilt had long been known as a man of business capacity, conservative ideas and liberal disposition. His inherited wealth he had increased by his own energy and judgment in affairs. With no taste for publicity or ostentation, he found recreation and enjoyment in the best products of the farm, the training stable, and the studio. He had felt the sustaining care of the healing art, as beneficent in the alleviation of disease as in its cure; and he had the far-seeing desire to assist in its development. He knew that better facilities for medical education must hereafter add to the comfort and diminish the suffering of rich and poor alike. He appreciated the aims and methods of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; and he believed in the value of its traditions and experience, the priceless accumulation of more than three quarters of a century. He therefore entrusted to this institution the means of further enlargement, to make it a more effective instrument for the final benefit of all. On the seventeenth of October, 1884, he conveyed to the College a deed of gift for this land, and a fund for the erection upon it of suitable buildings.

It had long been evident that the College could not carry out the needed improvements in its old location. It required, above all, more space for its various departments. Furthermore, experience had shown that it would not be enough to provide for the

immediate wants of the present. The future will surely bring with it additional demands, which cannot even be guessed at now ; and it would be only ordinary prudence to leave room for the unknown requirements of the years to come. For that reason the present locality was selected for the college grounds, embracing rather more than an acre and a half ; and the building in which we are assembled contains offices, lecture rooms, study and recitation rooms, museums and laboratories, far more complete and ample than the College has ever heretofore possessed.

But the friendly donor of this new edifice was not destined to witness its completion. On the eighth of December, 1885, little more than a year from the date of his benefaction, while in the apparent enjoyment of health and vigor, he was stricken down by an overwhelming cerebral attack, and in a few moments was no longer among the living. For the family and friends of the deceased, so sudden a demise must always be premature. But for the man himself, it may be considered as the happy and painless termination of a prosperous and useful career. It puts an end to all unfounded misconceptions, and obliterates forever the antagonisms of business rivalry. In this instance it made a remarkable impression. It left in strong relief the many-sided character of the man, who could control with success the largest financial interests, and could feel for the misfortunes of our honored and departed General ; whose wide sympathies embraced the most varied objects of private enterprise or public

utility ; and who was equally ready to transport from Egypt the sculptured monument of an antique civilization, or to endow at home a modern school of scientific and practical medicine.

The spirit of his work lived after him. The members of his family saw the far-reaching benevolence of his plan, and extended it in additional directions. In January, 1886, his son-in-law and his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Sloane, made proposals for the erection and endowment, on the college grounds, of a lying-in asylum, to be known as the "Sloane Maternity Hospital of the College of Physicians and Surgeons ;" and in April of the same year, the four sons of Mr. Vanderbilt created a fund for the erection and maintenance, also on the college grounds, of a great dispensary, as a special memorial to their father, under the name of the "Vanderbilt Clinic of the College of Physicians and Surgeons." Both these establishments are nearly completed, and will soon be in operation. They provide relief for the needy and suffering, and clinical instruction for students of medicine ; one of them in the whole field of general and special diseases and injuries, the other in a department which appeals to the most sensitive element of human nature, and which requires in the practitioner the most intelligent and self-relying skill.

It is impossible to overestimate the value of these institutions, either for the immediate relief of suffering humanity, or for the instruction of future medical practitioners. Everything which conduces to the com-

pleteness of their education will inevitably have its effect in the more intelligent and successful treatment of their patients ; and the practical benefits of the Sloane Maternity and the Vanderbilt Clinic will thus be extended in the future to many who never visited them, and who perhaps will never know to whom their indebtedness belongs.

The present position of the College of Physicians and Surgeons is one of honor and responsibility. Its eightieth birthday finds it more vigorous and flourishing than ever. Since 1807 it has survived five other medical colleges in the city and State of New York ; and throughout the country it has witnessed, during that time, the birth, maturity and decease of forty-one similar institutions. It has passed successfully through the perils of infancy, the ailments of childhood, and the struggles and contentions of its youth. It may now be considered as fairly equipped with the strength and capacity of early manhood. Perhaps its experience and endeavors thus far have been only a preparation for its real work in the time to come. At all events, the opportunities which it now enjoys are in the nature of a trust, and impose upon it obligations proportionate to themselves. May it use its enlarged resources with the same judgment and fidelity that it has shown heretofore, and be ready still to merit and achieve success. Considering what the College has already done, we may surely say that if its future history be worthy of the past, its friends will have no cause to complain of the result.

# INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY

WILLIAM H. DRAPER, M.D.

MR. PRESIDENT, TRUSTEES, FACULTY AND ALUMNI OF  
THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS:

This new building with its complete equipment can suggest nothing to the Alumni, and to those who have been the officiating priests in the ancient tabernacles of this College, so much as a resurrection, and it seems proper at this time to set forth what the spirit is, that animated the coils that have been shuffled off, and what it may be expected to accomplish for the profession and the good of mankind through this new and glorious body with which it has been endowed.

It is a melancholy but indubitable fact, that the standard of medical education in this country is far below that of England and the continent of Europe. The great wave of enthusiasm for popular instruction seems to have blinded the public sense to the necessity of higher education, so that in all the learned professions, and especially in that of medicine, which above all others should combine general culture with technical knowledge, there has been, and is, in the country at large, a degree of mediocrity and a shallowness of spirit which it is impossible to deny or conceal.

In England, and on the European continent rich endowments and government subsidies, have always secured a class of highly educated men who have led the van, who have received universal recognition as leaders, and who have so leavened the mass of the profession by lifting those below them to a higher plane, that the general average of scientific attainment, in the medical profession especially, is constantly and inevitably advancing. The same thing of course is occurring in this country in the larger cities, but more slowly, and mainly because of the absence of the conditions to which I have alluded. Our government takes no hand in the education of doctors, though good reasons might be assigned why it should do so: "*Salus populi suprema lex*" is a sound maxim, and ought to justify the protection of the community against incompetent doctors by helping to supply good ones, as much as it justifies compulsory vaccination. It is true that Congress has founded and maintains with liberal support a medical museum and library, and if it may do this, why should it not establish laboratories for the encouragement of the highest cultivation of physiology and pathology: and if it is right for the state governments to lavish money in large sums to give free collegiate education to young men and women, why, we might ask, should not public money be spent in contributing to the public weal by the establishment and support of technical schools.

Happily, however, for the cause of education in this country the signs of an awakening of the public



intelligence to its present defects are beginning to show themselves. The golden stream of private bounty has long flowed into every channel of relief for the mitigation of human misery, now it is more often turned towards the enlargement and perfection of human knowledge. Whereas, formerly, sympathy for the sufferings of mankind has never failed to yield a quick response to the needs of hospitals and asylums, now a broader and deeper comprehension of the sources of disease has begun to turn the current of accumulated wealth towards the encouragement and dissemination of learning that increases the sum of health and controls the consequences of inevitable ills.

The truth of this statement in its application to medical education, is illustrated by the fact that in several of the larger cities the medical schools are no longer solely dependent for their maintenance, as they were formerly, upon the scanty fees of their pupils; the student of medicine of to-day, whether he be animated by a thirst for knowledge, or by a desire to acquire the art of healing as a means of livelihood, has no longer to content himself with the meagre facilities which are afforded by the private enterprise of self-constituted professors. The public ear, so long deaf to any other appeals of doctors than those which related to hospitals and dispensaries, seems now to be opening to the earnest entreaties of the doctors themselves for more light to guide them in their work of mercy.

This is not the time nor the occasion to discuss the

question whether the problem of elevating the standard of medical education in this country is likely to be best and most quickly solved by government patronage, or by the bounty of private wealth, but there is one conspicuous benefit which I think experience already shows to be the result of dependence on private benefactions, and it is this: it undoubtedly stimulates in the profession itself an unselfish devotion to its work, an earnest and insatiable desire to advance its standards, and an aspiration towards higher achievements.

It is, moreover, safe to say, that, in this country at least, there is scarcely anything which a government undertakes, outside of its essential duties, as the conservator of law and order, that has not been proved to be more efficiently accomplished by private enterprise, and it remains to be seen, through the experiments which are being made in higher education in this country, whether in the next fifty years the results of individual contributions to the encouragement of science and art will not equal those of countries in which all the people pay tribute to their maintenance. In the present state of public intelligence in these United States in matters relating to higher education it would certainly seem safer, for the present, to rely upon the support of intelligent private beneficence, than to run the risk of squandering public money upon the innumerable schemes that would surely be devised for securing government bounty.

I have been led into this train of thought because the history of this institution shows clearly what may

be regarded as the legitimate and inevitable result of that spirit of devotion to a high purpose which sinks the selfish in the common weal, and which the love of knowledge especially inspires. The spirit is sure to secure the only reward it asks for, encouragement and support. It certainly was not for the gifts of fortune that the men who have been teachers in this school for the last eighty years have spent their energies. Many of them labored simply for the love of teaching, and the majority of them for meagre remuneration, when compared with the time and training devoted to their work. They lived and died, laying up few treasures beyond the blessings of their fellow men, and no investments save those which add to the sum of human knowledge and experience. As each generation of teachers handed over its work to younger and stronger men it infused an enthusiasm which stimulated its successors to better achievements, and so this college has grown in professional esteem and public confidence until now, without any pecuniary aid, other than that furnished by its own professors and its Alumni. But during all these years it has never faltered in its good work, and never lost faith in its destiny. Inadequate as its resources have been, it has never, to its honor be it spoken, imperilled its fair fame by seeking to increase its revenue through depreciating the value of its diploma. Its policy has always been to narrow the gate by which its graduates have passed from its halls, and lately, as you have heard, it has determined to narrow considerably its portal of entrance.

And now what is the reward of this abiding determination on the part of the Faculty, Trustees and Alumni to make this College of Physicians and Surgeons keep abreast with the advancing demands of medical science, and more and more worthy of the confidence of the profession and the public? Is its reward Mr. Vanderbilt's money, which has founded these spacious halls and well equipped laboratories? It is more than this—it is that the work which has been done all over the world in the service of humanity by scientific medicine enlightened the mind and moved the spirit of a masterful citizen of this metropolis to set an example in the disposition of private wealth so conspicuous as to command universal attention. Had Mr. Vanderbilt built a church to perpetuate his memory or propitiate the deity, had he endowed a hospital to commemorate his name, and secure for it, for all time, the blessings of the sick and suffering, he would simply have done what thousands have done before him. Such dispositions of wealth as these spring from the emotional side of man's nature. They are creditable to our humanity, but they are not the product of the highest development of our intelligence. They will always be needful to antagonize the ills and misfortunes to which flesh is heir, but they are powerless to dry up the springs from which many of them flow. That Mr. Vanderbilt in choosing an object for his bounty touched the true pole of human benevolence, is evident from a pregnant sentence in his letter to the President of the College an-

nouncing his intention. He said:—"The health, comfort and lives of the whole community are so dependent upon skilled physicians that no profession requires more care in the preparation of its practitioners."

This betrays the essential merit of our benefactor's gift. His eyes were opened, partly, in all probability by the personal benefit of scientific guidance in the care of his own health, and partly by an intelligent observation and reflection upon the amelioration of human suffering, through the arts of medicine. This is the reward which not alone this College but all schools of medicine throughout the world have reaped from his bounty. It is for this that this College and all mankind should be grateful, not so much for what has been given, as for the spirit which dictated the gift.

Measured by the needs of the general object Mr. Vanderbilt sought to benefit, his benefaction is but a drop in the bucket; estimated by the force of its example it is the tapping of a spring of human benevolence that will help to refresh for all time many waste places of ignorance and superstition.

In taking this broader view of the significance of Mr. Vanderbilt's gift to this College, as being the one which does highest honor to his memory, and which is being already verified, since his death, by the generous contributions of his family towards the enlargement and completion of his purpose, I am not unmindful of our special obligations to him for making

this College the object of his wise intention, and we who have lived to see this day of jubilee in the history of the College, may well be excused for the exuberance of our joy at this sudden and unexpected fruition of our fondest hopes.

To those of us who remember the shabby tenement in Crosby street, the removal to what seemed, by contrast, the palatial building in 23d street, was the occasion of great rejoicing. But what shall we say of the change we make to-day. It is not so much a removal, as a translation, and the setting up of a new kingdom. To say that we rejoice is but a feeble expression of the emotion that must fill the souls of those who have lived to know and suffer the *res angustæ* of our former habitations.

Would that I could summon to these halls the spirits of that goodly company of distinguished professors whose labors conspired to bring forth this offspring of their heart's desire. Would that the shades of Hosack, Mitchill, Romaine, Beck, Torrey, Smith, Bartlett, Watts, Gilman, Parker, Clark and all the honored line of illustrious teachers, whose names deserve to be echoed in these halls to-day, hovered about us at this moment, and shared the exultation of this hour. Would that they could go with us as we leave this hall and view, as they might in this building, the workshop of scientific medicine. Would that they could realize how rapidly the old methods of line upon line, and precept upon precept, are being laid aside for the teaching by observation and experiment.

How in the department of anatomy the very bones have become eloquent, and the student no longer pursues his dissections in a charnel house, stifled by foul odors and horrified by unseemly sights, but finds himself cheered in his work by pure air and the blaze of day. How art and ingenuity in demonstration have taken the place of text books, and the fabric of the human body in its minutest and most delicate structures has been unfolded to the eye. How in the teaching of physiology, description of the functions of living bodies are no longer preached like sermons from texts, to dull and sleepy congregations, but are made to manifest themselves to the understanding by the aid of ingenious mechanism and merciful vivisections: how in the department of chemistry the student no longer listens to what he can read in books, or witnesses experiments which only interest without instructing him, but works himself in a well furnished laboratory and grasps where before he only groped. We would then love to show the spirits of these revered teachers of former days, how in the practical branches the substitution of demonstrative for didactic instruction has revolutionized the methods of their time. How through an allied current of the same intelligent good will which erected this building, a Maternity Hospital has been provided on these grounds where nature manifests her perfect work and where every student may learn for himself, before he receives the diploma of this college, what experience only can teach. And finally we would lead this

ghostly procession into the laboratory of pathology ; here we can imagine their speechless surprise as they behold the strange and elaborate devices for teaching the science of disease. We can fancy them endorsing with hearty admiration all they have seen before. But how would the jargon of bacteriology sound in their ears? How many of them would shake their heads over the germ theory and reproach us for abandoning the humours and phlogostics of their day? We should pardon them if they failed to dilate with the correct emotion when they came to the department of pathology, but we should none the less point to it with pride, as the crowning glory of this new college, for here shines the light that is to illumine the mysterious recesses of disease and by its revelations lay the foundation of rational medicine. The art of to-day struggles mainly, as it always has, and with more or less success, with the effects of causes, of the nature of which we are still ignorant, the art of the future, the dawning of which is even now visible will contend more and more with the influences that determine disease.

As we part with the spirits of those whom we would have share the happiness of this hour we turn to greet their successors, the living exponents of the lofty mission to which this building is to-day consecrated. That they are fit to assume and worthy to bear the responsibilities, which these larger and better facilities for their work, now devolve upon them, no one can doubt.



It is fair to say that had it not been for their conspicuous fitness to receive it, this noble gift would never have been conferred upon them. May they administer their trust wisely and with the unselfish and reverent spirit which becomes the ministers of truth ; so shall they worthily honor the memory of their benefactor and merit the benediction of generations to come.

The grateful duty, Mr. President, has been assigned to me to recall on this auspicious occasion the memory of two of the founders of this College by presenting to the Board of Trustees on behalf of the donors, two portrait busts, one of Dr. David Hosack and the other of Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill. The bust of Dr. Hosack is the gift of his surviving daughter Miss Eliza B. Hosack ; that of Dr. Mitchill is presented by the President of the College. From the long roll of distinguished teachers who have been connected with this institution it is not likely that two could have been chosen whose fame and influence as citizens of this metropolis and as professors in this College are more worthy of being perpetuated.

The name of David Hosack is indissolubly associated with the early history of New York, as one of its most noted and public spirited citizens, and as a most eminent physician ; honored at home and abroad for his learning and above all for his earnest devotion to the cause of medical education.

Dr. Mitchill, no less than Dr. Hosack, was identi-

fied with the foundation of this College and the combined energy and eminent abilities of these two men are largely responsible for the high character with which it entered upon its career. Could these two worthy representatives of its ancestral fame behold the present proportions and possibilities of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, they would realize that they builded better than they knew when with humble means, but lofty purpose they laid the foundation of an institution which has never ceased to feel the force of their inspiration and is to-day one of the foremost medical colleges of the land.

I have also the pleasure to present a portrait by Eastman Johnson of our honored President, Dr. John C. Dalton. This portrait hangs in the amphitheatre together with the portraits of those Nestors in the service of the College, Parker and Clark. It is the gift of one hundred of Dr. Dalton's friends and former pupils. This portrait is a precious possession, not only for its intrinsic excellence as a work of art, but as a life-like presentment of one whose fame as a physiologist and whose success as a teacher, have contributed in large measure to the present distinction and prosperity of this school.

Finally, Mr. President, I have the honor to present to the Trustees, Faculty and Alumni of this College a portrait bust in bronze of WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT. This bust is the work of the distinguished sculptor J. Q. A. Ward, and the gift of a number of members of the Board of Trustees.

One of the last acts in the life of Mr. Vanderbilt was a sitting for this portrait on the morning of the day he died; and it adds to the significance and value of the possession that it reflects, so to speak, as one of the last thoughts of our lamented benefactor, the deep and earnest interest with which he regarded the future career of this college. That his family were deeply impressed by the feeling which the incident typified they have abundantly testified in their generous development of what they felt to be their father's final wish and purpose.

This bust occupies a position in the main hall where it will command for many long years the grateful recognition of succeeding generations of students who will enjoy the privileges provided for them by the wise bounty of the man it commemorates.

The Sloane Maternity Hospital, at 59th street and Tenth Avenue, and the Vanderbilt Clinic, at Tenth Avenue and 60th street, were inaugurated December 29th 1887, with an address delivered by Professor T. Gaillard Thomas, M.D., in the lecture hall of the college building.

ADDRESS  
AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE  
SLOANE MATERNITY HOSPITAL  
AND OF THE  
VANDERBILT CLINIC  
BY  
T. GAILLARD THOMAS, M.D.

“*Vita brevis; ars longa.*” Man’s life is but a span; the life of Art is long and endures forever! Generation after generation is cut down and disappears like the herb of the field; but Art with grand and measured tread marches onward through the ages!

As we meet here to-day to foster the interests of the noblest of the arts, so met the men and women of ancient Greece and Rome. Since then, they and thousands who have succeeded them, have vanished like a tale that is told; but the art which they fostered lives now, as it lived then, coming down to us in lusty strength, in youthful vigor, in enduring glory!

What is life for us to-day more than it was for those a thousand years preceding us? Have we found an antidote for its cares; a safeguard against its sorrows; a preventive of its brevity, its hollowness, or its weird and sad termination? What is art to-day

contrasted with art as long ago? From an atom it has grown into a mountain. The story of its growth oversteps the limits even of imagination! He, who a century ago would have given credence to the fairy-tale of the princess whose lover was aided in his search for her by three mysterious men, the first capable of travelling five hundred leagues in a day, the second of seeing thousands of miles, and the third of whispering through that distance into the ear of the person seen, would have been regarded as a madman. And yet to-day every one of these apparently vain imaginings has been verified! Within a few seconds the news from far off lands is written or whispered to us; within a day hundreds of miles are traversed with ease and certainty; and the patient student from hour to hour, watches the heaping up upon the face of the moon of piles of scoriæ by volcanic action, and measures the depths of the valleys which they create! A century ago steam and electricity were unknown; now they are man's willing slaves, destined to do his bidding, as the ancients foreshadowed when they represented the thunderbolt in the hand of Jupiter! What imagination so vivid as to foreshadow the discoveries of the next century! What prophet so gifted or so bold, as to foretell the triumphs of art as yet undreamed of, and lying dormant in the womb of time!

Among the arts none has more essentially changed with time than has that whose votaries are assembled in this beautiful hall to-day; none is more rapidly

changing now ; and in the advance and perfection of none is society more deeply interested ; for truly has it been said :

“ A good physician skilled our wounds to heal  
Is more than armies to the public weal ! ”

Medicine as an art has existed since the days of Hippocrates, who lived 400 years before Christ. During the 2,200 years which have since elapsed little was done for its material and decided advancement until the beginning of the 17th century. For these more than 2,000 years the art lived ; but lived in intimate communion with superstition and the most unqualified charlatanism ; lived in the musty tomes of priests and shavelings ; lived in the brains of dreamers and theorists ; lived in the hands of the herbalist and the barber ! But still it lived, and in the early part of the 17th century it was stirred into renewed vigor by three influences which proved potent for good. Since that time amends have been made for prolonged torpor by a rapidity of progress which must meet the demands of the most exacting critic ; and during the last half century it may with justice and without boastfulness be claimed that no other science or art has left it behind in the race for advancement !

I just now pointed out the influence which those two gigantic factors, steam and electricity, had exerted upon the arts in general. Early in the 17th century medicine felt a propulsive influence, no less decided, from the establishment of inductive philosophy by Fran-

cis Bacon ; of the perfection and utilization of the microscope ; and of the discovery of the circulation of the blood by the great Englishman, William Harvey. Archimedes once declared that if he were only given a standpoint for his lever he could move the world. These three contributions furnished a tripod for the support of a lever which at once moved medicine upwards and onwards.

And here before I proceed further, let me meet the criticism which I feel sure that some of my non-professional hearers will launch at me, that the claim, which I have ventured to make for medicine, savors of boastfulness. I here boldly and without hesitation declare the belief that vaccination and the discovery of anæsthesia surpass in the beneficence of their results even steam and electricity. And as this is true as to these major factors, so do I claim that it is so as to many minor ones. Let me in all sincerity and truth ask you to-day these questions : Which would you prefer to give up, steam with all its manifold advantages, all its blessings, all its influences upon civilization ; or to return to the times when that loathsome disease, small-pox, would strike a community and pass over it like a simoon, killing hundreds by a terrible death and deforming thousands for life ; to the time when a household would be stricken down, demoralized and desolated ; and when beauty was transformed into hideousness within a few days ? Would you rather give up the charming results of that magical power, electricity, with its grand



achievements and its luxurious outcome ; or return to the dark days when your loved ones, exposed of necessity to the surgeon's knife, would have to suffer mortal agony for hour piled on hour ; when she who is dearer to you than life itself had to bear the agonies of the primal curse in the same degree as our mother Eve ; and when you yourself, when dying a slow death of suffering would be deprived of the sweet boon of euthanasia ? I do not pause for a reply ! I know that every one of you, every man in all his selfishness, every woman in all her disinterestedness of love, will say with me, " Perish steam, perish electricity, rather than that we should go back to those dark and gloomy days of human woe and human helplessness ! "

If a dividing line can anywhere be drawn between modern and ancient medicine, between medicine as a pure art, and medicine as an art guided by the beneficent light of science it would fall about the middle or latter part of the 16th century ; and there can be no doubt as to the influence of the three great discoveries which I have mentioned in bringing about the grand result. From this time rapidly appeared upon the stage of medical labor, those great students of the past who left upon its literature an impress as profound as that which was left upon general literature by Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton ; I allude to Vesalius, Paré and Sydenham ; and later to Boerhaave, Von Haller, Morgagni, Jenner and the Hunters. These men labored at much greater advantage

than did their predecessors; for their minds were prepared for proper methods of study by the establishment of inductive philosophy; their scope was greatly increased by the understanding of the circulation of the blood; and their eyes were given miraculous powers by the perfection of the microscope. Nevertheless during the 17th and 18th centuries the art and science of medicine stumbled painfully and slowly onwards, hampered by man's vain tendency to theorising, constructing formulæ, and establishing artificial systems! Every great man felt that he must prove his right to being so considered by propounding and sustaining some dogma. What an investigator thought out in his closet, that he saw at the bedside, and that he strove to maintain, not by demonstration to the senses, but by words, by sonorous phrases, by eloquent sentences, and by astute and long drawn argument. Read to-day the writings of one of the most charming of medical writers, the Thomas Watson of the olden time, Sydenham. You will find them teeming with seductive argument, eloquent appeal, and powerful rhetoric; but equally will you be struck by want of evidence, absence of appeal to the senses, and failure of physical demonstration. Abundant and pithy calls upon the intellect you will find, but none upon the sight, the touch, the hearing, and the smell! Does he advance the theory that carbuncle is a low grade of inflammation excited by the introduction into the blood of some external malign influence? If so it is merely

his own opinion; nothing more. He does not show you with the microscope the anthrax bacillus. Does he claim an altered renal action in general dropsy? If so he fails to coagulate albumen in the test tube, or show you tube casts and epithelium. Does he maintain that the air vesicles of the lungs are filled with plastic material during the first stage of pneumonia? If he does so, he lacks the power of making you hear the crepitant râle as a conclusive proof of his correctness.

As the pestilence which they sought to circumvent was said to walk "by darkness," so walked their finely drawn and carefully woven theories; and alas too often walked they hand-in-hand with the evil against which they were launched! During that period of mysticism, of doubt, and of theory our calling should in all honesty have pleaded guilty to the scathing definition of a physician as "a man who poured drugs of which he knew little into bodies of which he knew less."

And so things went on with medicine not from bad to worse, for it would have been hard to find the latter; but from bad to a very little better, and thus they continued to go until the propitious dawn of the 19th century which was heralded by the discovery of vaccination by the immortal Jenner? As the century advanced into its latter half, our art had done enough to warrant it in laying claim to the title of "Demonstrative Medicine" in contradistinction to that of the olden time which might have been called "Theoreti-

cal Medicine." Men educated by the influences which I have cited and by others of a similar nature now began to make all supposition, all belief, all theory subordinate to physical proof; to demonstration to the senses. They began to study, not isolated in their closets; but banded together in hospitals, in laboratories, and in clinical rooms. There, no man ventured to advance a view the truth of which he could not maintain by evidence. Diseases of the lungs and heart were listened to, not talked about; those of the deep structures of the eye were looked at with the ophthalmoscope; the darkness of the larynx was dissipated by the laryngoscope; all canals were tunnelled for the admission of light by specula; and medical chemistry or the microscope would pronounce dogmatically as to the nature of fluids and solids removed from any part of the system.

All the nations of the earth soon began to vie with each other in the advancement of medicine, freed from mysticism and theory, and capable of proof and of demonstration. In Germany, in France, in England, in Russia and in Italy, laboratories, hospitals and clinics soon teemed with students eager to learn what the new era could teach, and with devoted investigators equally eager to make discoveries and to impart them. And what is so far the out-come? It is so immense, so grand, so vast that the time allotted to this address is insufficient for even a rapid presentation of it! Let me cite a few facts only. The discovery of that blood poisoning called septi-

cæmia, and of the methods of avoiding it by Lister of Scotland, have robbed hospital operations of nine-tenths of their terrors, have already saved thousands of lives and are destined in the future to give to man incalculable results.

Should the noble efforts of the great Pasteur succeed in accomplishing the prevention of hydrophobia, that success would be entirely due to it; should they fail, what of it? He has "struck a lead," as miners express it in mining, which whether he live or die, whether he survive or perish, whether he succeed or fail, will be followed up by others to grand results!

A few years, a very few years ago, the Lying-in or Maternity hospitals of the world were transformed into charnel houses by that terror of all lands, Puerperal Fever. Now, in the most insalubrious parts of Paris, of Vienna and St. Petersburg there is scarcely a mortality of 3 in 100 from this cause, where proper precautions are observed.

To the non-professional members of my audience all this, so wonderful is it, may appear as the tale of a romancer, or the exaggeration of an enthusiast. But it is neither. I have merely touched upon the theme; by no means have I done it justice!

And it requires no prophet's power to declare that scientific medicine is in our day in its early, pulling infancy. What has been done is as nothing to what will be done! What we know, falls into insignificance when compared with what we shall, what we must know, within the next century.

And what has accomplished all that has thus far been effected in the way of advancement? The great, the leading factor has been a change in our methods of study; an improvement in our plans of investigation; a more philosophical style of collating our facts, and drawing our deductions. The laboratory work, clinical study, and the use of instruments of precision to which special reference has been made, have all been merely means for developing the experimental and demonstrative methods of study which have resulted in the new era which is now fully dawning upon us in all its abundance of results!

If in this great work the monarchical countries of Europe have outstripped our own land, it is because of the endowment of institutions of learning, the aid given to struggling science, the fostering hand stretched out to art by such forms of government on the one hand; and the well known neglect of these things by republics, on the other. Ever since the foundation of our country, our medical colleges have struggled onwards as private enterprises dependent for existence upon the fees of those to whom their diplomas were granted; unaided by government; unthought of by society; unendowed by men of wealth, whose millions at their death went to the support of some distant enterprise, the erection of some monument or statue, or some similar work, of great, though far less importance.

All honor to the house of Vanderbilt, which has created a new era; set an example which is even now

being nobly followed ; and engraved its memory upon the heart of every true physician of our country !

We are engaged to-day in inaugurating a Clinic and a Lying-in Hospital, both put at the disposal of our art by Vanderbilt's immediate connections, desirous to emulate his glorious example, and eager to lay Medicine under a greater debt than the great one which it already owed to its head.

“The Vanderbilt Clinic!” Did the origin of the word “Clinic” ever strike you? It is derived from the Greek “κλίνη,” a “couch,” and its full significance is this ; “in these halls the art of medicine is to be studied at the bedside. The mind of the student is not to be filled with the thoughts, the dicta, the suppositions and the deductions of other men ; but here he is to study disease in its ghastly truth for himself, by the aid of sight, touch, hearing, and smell, and to draw conclusions for himself. Here he is to seek the truth and to learn from his teachers how to find it ; not to accept as truth what those teachers believe to be such ; not to strive to learn from their experience, but to collate facts and acquire experience for himself.”

This is to be one great out-come of this clinic. But equally important results remain to be told, even without alluding to the self-evident one of the great blessing which will accrue to the poor of New York, who will profit by the immediate effect of the medical service now placed at their disposal.

And now I come to tell you of a singular coinci-

dence in this exhibition of generosity and charity, which is not generally known, and of which I would make history did the power lie within me. Before the thought of the great gift made by Vanderbilt had entered into his charitable mind, one of the members of the Faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, under the authority of a son-in-law of Mr. Vanderbilt, was searching for a location for a Maternity Hospital to be erected and equipped entirely at his personal expense. To-day the Sloane Maternity Hospital is in full working order, and with the Vanderbilt Clinic is put at the disposal of the College so richly endowed by the head of the house.

Even this is not all. The wife of this generous man, a true daughter of her house, apparently unwilling to be outdone in good works even by her own husband, has assumed the entire expenditure attendant upon the working of this magnificent charity.

What grand rivalry ; what princely extravagance ; what God-given inspiration !

Yet great as is this munificent offering to humanity and to science, greater, far greater is the reward, which even in their lifetime, must be meted out to these generous donors. This house of refuge and of mercy, built with all the cunning of the architecture of our day, will stand for centuries ! What monarch's wealth could purchase a sweeter thought, a more sublime reflection than that throughout that time the prayers of thousands of weary, sad-faced women ; of thousands of grimy sons of toil, will constantly ascend



for their benefactors, in gentle murmurs, to the judgment seat of God?

“The prayer of the righteous man availeth much,” but rather give to me the supplications in my behalf of the suffering, the friendless, and the poor, to whom it has been vouchsafed me to have offered aid and comfort.

A favorite dictum of theologians of the olden time was this, “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” So deeds, such as those of which I have just made grateful mention, are the seed of science. From the seed thus sown will spring up results throughout our broad land, from Maine to Texas, which will multiply an hundred fold the generous acts which we here acknowledge. He is short-sighted indeed who sees in the gifts which we receive to-day a benefit to one institution or to one city. A noble example has been set, a fruitful hint been given which will redound to the advantage of science and humanity throughout our wide borders from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores.

Trustees and Faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons who are to-day made custodians of these princely gifts, a weighty responsibility rests upon us so to administer them as to develop to its fullest extent the intentions of the givers. It is clear that their desire has been to elevate the standard of Medical Education in our country, to advance the science of Medicine, and thus to benefit science and humanity. Let no narrow policy, no views bounded

by local interests, no ambitions less lofty than those to which allusion has just been made, enter our minds. But with a high and firm resolve let us strive in the general cause of science and humanity so to acquit ourselves of our stewardship, that those who sit in judgment upon us after our mortal frames shall have become dust, may pronounce upon our memories that verdict, so much to be desired, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

The thought which entered the minds of the creators of these noble charities, that in endowing the quiet, unobtrusive and unobserved science of medicine they could benefit humanity, elevate art, rear to their names an unostentatious yet pleasant memorial in these halls "where charity and science so nobly meet" was an original, a happy, a noble one. Whence came it? Not from a desire for fame. Half the gift elsewhere bestowed would have brought them more. Not from a wish to advance worldly interests. What worldling craves the affectionate admiration of a guild like ours? It had its birth in some nobler, loftier, purer sphere.

History gives abundant evidence of man's desire to live in the memory of those whom he leaves in this life, after he has crossed the dark and silent river; of his aversion to the chilling thought of being completely obliterated and fading from the minds of men like the baseless fabric of a vision, leaving not a rack behind. And history has taught us that it is not the column of brass or the statue of stone which best

preserves the name entrusted to it. To live after death our monument must be erected in the grateful hearts of those who succeed us. When the arch of Severus shall have made dust for the streets of Rome ; the simple prayer of the good Chrysostom, contained in ten short lines, will cause his memory to live for ages in the minds of men. Lorenzo de Medicis left his memory to the keeping of art ; of art honored, elevated and purified by him ; his name shines more brightly to-day than it did even in his own time. *Ars longa ! Vita brevis !*

In whatsoever garb it may appear there is a charm, a beauty about the God-like virtue Charity, which commands for it admiration, sympathy and respect. - How various are its manifestations ! Here we behold the miser indulging in it as a posthumous duty, because he cannot carry his riches with him into the hereafter ; bequeathing his cherished millions to the poor, because "there is no pocket to a shroud ;" here the ambitious demagogue hoarding wealth during a lifetime to endow an institution or erect a statue to preserve his name from oblivion ; and here the truly pious and virtuous leaving their goods for the advancement of religion and the spread of the Gospel. In all these forms Charity is ever the most God-like and radiant of the virtues. But how much more noble and more admirable does it appear when coming as a gift during the lifetime of the donor, who then shares his possessions, with his needy brother, and watches with tender solicitude the resulting bene-

fit! To give with posthumous generosity to the heathen of distant lands, and beyond far off seas, is noble indeed: but more noble, more beautiful is it far, to see wealth shared during a lifetime with the beggar at one's door-step.

How beautifully is this idea illustrated in the charming poem of the "Vision of Sir Launfal," a knight of old, who leaving untended the poor at his gate sought to recover, for the love of God, and at the point of his lance, the Holy Grail from far distant Palestine. Returning disappointed and dejected, the christian soldier sees at his castle gate a leper, miserable, wretched, outcast. Suddenly he feels "that one touch of nature which makes all mankind kin," and he is inspired with the impulse to pity, and to aid him as he pleads for alms.

"And Sir Launfal said—'I behold in thee  
An image of Him who died on the tree ;  
Thou also hast had thy crown of thorns,—  
Thou also hast had the world's buffets and scorns.—  
And to thy life were not denied  
The wounds in the hands, and feet and side :  
Mild Mary's son acknowledge me ;  
Behold through him I give to thee !'

"As Sir Launfal mused with a downcast face,  
A light shone round about the place ;  
The leper no longer crouched at his side,  
But stood before him glorified,  
Shining and tall and fair and straight  
As the pillar that stood by the Beautiful Gate.

“His words were shed softer than leaves from the pine  
And they fell on Sir Launfal like snows on the brine,  
Which mingle their softness and quiet in one  
With the shaggy unrest they float down upon ;  
And the voice that was calmer than silence said  
Lo ! it is I, be not afraid !  
In many climes without avail  
Thou hast spent thy life for the Holy Grail ;  
Behold it is here,—this cup which thou  
Didst fill at the streamlet for me but now ;  
This crust is my body broken for thee,  
This water his blood that died on the tree ;  
The Holy Supper is kept indeed,  
In whatso we share with another’s need ;  
Not what we give, but what we share.—  
For the gift without the giver is bare ;  
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,  
Himself, his hungering neighbor and Me.”

Generous donors of these most noble charities. Sons and daughters of one whose name will never fade from the annals of American Medicine ; commissioned by my colleagues I come to you the bearer of three-fold thanks ! In the name of Science for which you have shown so much solicitude ; in the name of Medicine for which you have so nobly pledged your appreciation ; in the name of Humanity, which for cycle upon cycle will profit by your liberality, from the deepest depths of our hearts, we thank you !

“Tout lasse, tout casse, tout passe,” says a quaint old French proverb. The only exception to the truth embodied in its simple alliteration is to be found, in

this world, in the enduring pleasure which is born of good deeds done to our fellow men. God grant that that enduring pleasure may be yours and that it may abide with you to the end of life's pilgrimage !

May the wisdom, the resources, and the skill which centuries of labor have bestowed upon medicine be ever in their best and brightest estate when called for by you in the hour of your sorest need ! May the bread which you have so lavishly cast upon the waters, be returned to you in prosperity in this world, and in life in that which is to come !









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